

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 35 to page 24, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this example, it was assumed that the user only wanted to view the data and so user device 102i only needed capability for opening the requested document. If for example, the user was requesting the data with one application, e.g., a browser or viewer, but wanted to edit the document using another application after the document was received, the above decision process would be more complex. The application would require logic to make the necessary determinations. For example, the decision could be made to use a remote application to process the data after the data format conversion, and so a lightweight component would need to be downloaded and the desired format would depend on the capabilities of the remote application. See for example, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/~~xxx,xxx~~759,786, entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REMOTE CONTROL AND INTERACTION WITH A RUN TIME ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT," of Ralf Hofmann and Torsten Schulz (~~Attorney Docket No. P-4596~~), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Independent of the decision process used on the client side to determine the target format, the message sent by client device 102i specifies at least an identifier of the requested data, and an indication of a target format.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 30 to page 33, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Method `readBytes` reads the specified number of bytes in the given sequence. The return value specifies the number of bytes, which have been put into the sequence. A difference between input parameter `nBytesToRead` and the return value indicates that an EOF has been reached. This method blocks the thread until the specified number of bytes ~~are~~ is available or the EOF is reached. Some implementations must buffer their data to fulfill their specification, and if so exception `BufferSizeExceededException` may be thrown. When the object is not connected to another interface `XInputStream` (the need for a connection must be specified by the service specification) exception `NotConnectedException` is thrown. Exception `IOException` is thrown when a general IO error occurs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 22 to line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Method `closeInput` closes the stream. Users must close the stream explicitly when no further reading should be done. {There may exist ring references to chained objects that can only be released during this call. Thus, not calling this method would result in leak of memory or external resources.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 23 to line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Method `startElement` receives notification of the beginning of an element. Input parameter `aName` contains

the name of the tag. Input parameter xAttribs contains an interface to the list of attributes given in the tag. Note that for every call of the method, the same instance may be passed, and so.—~~So~~ one must make a copy of the instance to store the information.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 12 to line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Method writeBytes writes the whole sequence to the stream. ~~(Blocking call.)~~ Method flush flushes any data that may exist in buffers out of the stream. Method closeOutput is called to indicate that all data has been written. If this method is not yet been called, no attached interface *XInputStream* receives an EOF signal. No further bytes may be written after this method has been called.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 22 to line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is related to commonly filed and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/~~xxx,xxx~~759,740, entitled "A NETWORK PORTAL SYSTEM AND METHODS" of Matthias Hütsch, Ralf Hofmann and Kai Sommerfeld (~~Attorney Docket No. 4595~~), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.